

kingdom in describing the position of the communes of South Italy.

The liberties of the cities, towns, and rural communes and their relations to the royal power naturally form a varied picture. On the whole it is evident that the exigencies of conquest, the pressure of events, the number and strength of the towns obliged Roger to leave to them considerable liberty. Yet in essence they shared a similar fate with Church and nobility, in being subjected to the Crown to such an extent as to leave the higher justice and the power of the sword in the hand of the King,

The position of Home of the great cities at the end of the reign illustrates the royal policy. Those of the mainland had generally much more honourable terms with the conqueror, Amalfi was bound to furnish ships and men for the navy, this service was imposed in a less degree upon Gu&ta and Naples." The latter city at the advent of the Normans had been an aristocratic republic, under an hereditary duke, who governed by the advice of a military caste of *milites* and the consent of the middle class or *moderati* the submission of Naples in 1140 the King committed with lands about the city; they

wen; freed
from half of the military duty formerly
owed to
the duke and from the whole, of their
maritime*
service, Naples wan hcmceforth
governed by a

¹ Sew ante, <*http. VI,

•Sehipa, *n duntit tti Nut#li_t Nwplw*,
iity&r. ti, p, 57» w\$.